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BILL

TO

Facilitate Inquiries of Commissioners of Endowed Schools in Ireland.

WHEREAS Her Majesty has been graciously pleased, on the Address of the Commons in Parliament assembled, to issue Her Majesty's Commission, dated the Fourteenth Day of November in the Eighteenth Year of Her Majesty's Reign, to Charles William Fitzgerald, Esquire, (commonly called Marquis of Kildare,) Charles Graves, Doctor of Divinity, Robert Andrews, Doctor of Laws, One of Her Majesty's Counsel learned in the Law, Henry George Hughes, Esquire, One of Her Majesty's Counsel learned in the Law, and Archibald John Stephens, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, and thereby authorized and appointed them Her Majesty's Commissioners to inquire into the Endowments, Funds, and actual Condition of all Schools endowed for the Purposes of Education in Ireland, and the Nature and Extent of the Instruction given in such Schools, and to report their Opinions thereon; and for the Assistance of the said Commissioners, William Neilson Handcock, Esquire, was appointed Secretary to the said Commission: And whereas Difficulties have been encountered in the Prosecution of the said Inquiries, and it is expedient that the said Commissioners should have Authority conferred upon them, as herein-after expressed, to carry out the Objects of the said Commission, and that One or more Assistant Preamble.

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Commissioners should be appointed to act under the said Commissioners and in their Aid: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same: 5

Glossary.

I. In the Construction of this Act the following Words and Expressions shall, if not inconsistent with the Context, have the Meaning herein-after assigned to them; (that is to say,)

The Word "Commissioners" shall mean the said Commissioners named in the said Commission, or any Three of them; 10

"Endowed Schools" or "Schools" shall mean and include all Schools of Royal Foundation in Ireland, the Schools on the Foundation of Erasmus Smith, the Charter Schools and Diocesan Schools, and all Schools endowed on charitable or public Foundations in Ireland; 15

"Endowments" shall mean and include the Estates, Lands, Funds, and annual or other Income given, granted, or applied for the Establishment or Support of such Schools, or for the Purposes of Education therein;

And "Lord Lieutenant" shall mean the Chief Governor or Chief Governors of Ireland for the Time being. 20

Commissioners to meet for Purposes herein.

28 G. 3. c. 15. 30 G. 3. c. 24. 31 G. 3. c. 41. 46 G. 3. c. 122.

To inquire into the Endowments and State of all Schools, &c.

II. The Commissioners, so soon as conveniently may be, shall meet from Time to Time at some convenient Place, and examine and inquire into the State, Condition, and Management of all endowed Schools in Ireland, and the Nature and Extent of the Instruction given therein, and also into the Nature, Amount, and annual or other Value of the Endowments of such Schools respectively, and the annual Income derived from such Endowments, and how the same has been applied, and into such other Matters connected with such Schools, and the System of Education pursued therein, as to the Commissioners shall seem expedient. 25 30

Power of Commissioners to repair to Schools, and call for Documents.

III. The Commissioners, or any One or more of them, may repair to any School or to any other Place, and there to summon and examine, on Oath or otherwise, all and every Person or Persons touching any Matters which they are empowered or directed by this Act to examine or inquire into, and to call for Vouchers, Books, Deeds, Evidences, Maps, and all other Documents, and to examine and inquire into all Matters which to the Commissioners shall seem necessary and proper; and the Commissioners are hereby respectively empowered to administer an Oath to any Person who shall be so examined by or before them. 35 40

IV. If

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IV. If any Person who shall be summoned to appear before the Commissioners or any One or more of them, for the Purpose of being examined, or to produce any Documents before them, shall refuse to appear or to be examined by the Commissioners or any Three of them, or shall refuse to answer such Questions as shall be propounded by the Commissioners, or any of them, touching any Matter or Thing which they are empowered or directed by this Act to examine into, or shall refuse or neglect to attend before such Commissioners from Day to Day, when required so to do, or to produce such Records, Deeds, Parchments, Books, Papers, or Writings, or any of them, without good and sufficient Cause, to be allowed by the Commissioners, every such Person shall forfeit the Sum of *Twenty Pounds* for every such Refusal, Neglect, or Omission, to be recovered by Action in any of Her Majesty's Courts of Record, or by Civil Bill in the Court of any Assistant Barrister, by any Person who shall sue for the same.

28 G. 3. c. 15. Persons refusing to attend to forfeit 20*l.*

V. The Commissioners may from Time to Time, as often as they shall think proper, and as often as they shall be required so to do by the Lord Lieutenant, make a Report in Writing under their Hands and Seals, or the Hands and Seals of any Three of them, to Her Majesty of all Matters arising upon such Examinations and Inquiries which shall appear to the Commissioners necessary or proper so to be reported, and shall in like Manner report and suggest to Her Majesty such Plans for the Improvement of Education in such Schools, and for the better regulating, managing, and governing such Schools, and for the general Promotion, in connexion with said Schools, of Academic Education in Ireland, as shall appear to the Commissioners to be expedient and practicable.

Commissioners to make Report; 28 G. 3. c. 15.

and suggest Plans of Improvements.

VI. The Lord Lieutenant may, on the Requisition of the Commissioners, appoint One or more but not exceeding *Three* Assistants to the Commissioners, to be called Assistant Commissioners; and the Commissioners may from Time to Time remove such Assistant Commissioners, and the Lord Lieutenant may, on the Requisition of the Commissioners, appoint others in their Place; and the Remuneration to be paid to such Assistant Commissioners, in addition to their Travelling Expenses, shall be such Sum as the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury shall appoint, not exceeding the Sum of *Two hundred Pounds* for each Assistant Commissioner, to be paid out of such Aids or Supplies as may be from Time to Time provided and appropriated by Parliament for the Purpose.

Appointment of Assistant Commissioners.

VII. It shall be the Duty of the Assistant Commissioners to act in aid of the Commissioners, and under their Directions, in execution of the Objects of this Act, and for that Purpose to visit and inspect such

Duties of Assistant Commissioners.

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such of the Endowed Schools in Ireland as the Commissioners shall direct, and to examine into the Endowments and State and Condition of such Schools, and to report thereon to the Commissioners; and such Assistant Commissioners shall have and enjoy the same Rights and Powers as the Commissioners or any of them might or would have had if they had visited the Schools in Person. 5

This Act not to affect Powers of Commissioners.

VIII. Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to abridge, lessen, or affect the Powers of the Commissioners under and by virtue of Her Majesty's said Commission.

Endowed Schools.

(Ireland.)

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To facilitate Inquiries of Commissioners of Endowed Schools in Ireland.

(Prepared and brought in by Mr. Solicitor General for Ireland, Mr. Attorney General for Ireland, and Mr. Horsman.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,* 27 *June* 1855.

[Bill 200.]

Under 1 *oz.*

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